

DISINTEGRATION FACES MINORITY

Discord and Panic Now Prevail in the Democratic Ranks.

LEADER CLARK LOSES HIS FIRST BIG FIGHT

Representative Howard, of Georgia, Trapped Him in the Democratic Caucus, Which Was Held Too Late, and Opened Way for the Bolt.

Times-Dispatch Bureau.
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THERE is discord and panic in the Democratic ranks here. The minority party has taken one more step toward disintegration. Disorganized, purposeless, and haphazard it drifts, striking rock after rock. With twenty-odd members of the House in open revolt and scores of others dissatisfied and disgusted, the Democracy as represented in the popular branch of Congress is in a worse shape than at any time in the last twenty years. The Democrats of the House have formed a sort of political mob that idolized William Jennings Bryan and John Sharp Williams, the one for his dreams and the other for his charming personality, his courage, his daring, his eloquence and his splen-

It is asserted as a fact that not within a decade have the minority members of the House held a caucus for a full and free discussion of any subject. Although Williams was a leader of real cleverness, he was dominated by third-rate Congressmen like Ollie James, of Kentucky, and Henry Clayton, of Alabama, who, when boiled down, are known to be nothing more

than blowdowns, and it begins to look as if Champ Clark would make the same mistakes of his predecessor.

Blunder Follows Blunder.

One blunder after another has been made in connection with the recent Democratic bolt. In the first place, it was contended by wise partisans that the Democratic caucus should not be put off until Monday, the day the extra session adjourned, but be held the Saturday prior; therefore, Messrs. Hoge and Webb of New York, C. C. Cole and H. F. Flood and Saunders of Virginia, were among those who signed and signed

for Saturday. All agree now that the caucus was put off the long. But the representatives of the dear people, with their \$8,000 a year, had business of a pressing nature at home, and did not have time for a trifling party caucus. As a result, they returned here to find that the horse was gone, and proceeded to lock the door, and cry "Thief."

If what is said of the caucuses—the tardy caucuses—is true, no Afro-American has any business in the caucuses.

tumult and disorder. It was presided over by the Hon. Henry Clayton of Alabama, who acted as temporary chairman of the Denver convention. Scattered, angry and helpless, the majority of the minority of the House stand, abusing their former allies, and praying for help. Champ Clark is bold, brave and aggressive, but unskilled in the conduct of debate. The general impression is that he has picked weak lieutenants. With all of his excellent qualities, Mr. Clark has proven himself a poor general in the first skirmish of the great battle pending. Those who followed him to humiliating defeat last Monday, when victory was

Many who were loyal to the organization in the contest over the rules are not willing to keep up the fight. Four of the seven North Carolina Democrats are dissatisfied, and two of the other three do not like to be dictated to by such men as James and Clayton. The ablest men of the Georgia delegation bolted.

Did They Sell Out?

It is charged that Fitzgerald, of New York, and those who followed him, sold out. This may be true of Pat

McCarren's man, but it has not been proven. It is said that he will be rewarded with a \$17,500 salary and a trip in his State. The Danville Bad Man has already put him on the Committee on Rules.

But what about the Southerners, especially the Georgians? What of Howard, Brantley and Griggs? These are among the big men of the House. Howard is frequently referred to as the most promising man there. In the notorious caucus, where no one could

hear what was going on, he asked the question that elicited the answer that gave the bolters the loophole through which they made their exit. There is some doubt about the wording of the question, which was put to Leader Clark just after his proposed rules were read, amidst considerable confusion, but Mr. Howard told me this is what he said:

The Loophole.

"I asked Mr. Clark whether he would consider it a breach of the obligation

to the caucus to vote for amendments to the rules proposed by a Democrat, in good faith, which tended to reform and liberalize the rules, such amendments as Democrats would desire to have made to the rules of a parliament of this country occurred. Although such amendments were not included in the resolution which he (Mr. Clark) would offer."

To this Mr. Howard understood Mr. Clark to say that he would not consider it a violation of the caucus re-

On this point much depends. The bolters claim that they had a right to do what they did, the answer of Mr. Clark, they allege, giving it to the bolters. Howard, the Congressmen, declare that Mr. Howard's question was put for the deliberate purpose of transferring their leader.

Fitzgerald's Statement.

In defense of his action Mr. Fitzgerald said: "Two years ago the Democratic caucus considered a resolution to have minority members selected for committees by a committee instead of by Mr. Williams, the then leader. It only received seven votes, yet Mr.